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REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 14-26, 29, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully asserts that such rejection is avoided in view of the clarifications made hereinabove to each of the relevant independent claims.

The Examiner is thanked for the allowable subject matter of Claims 11 and 24. The Examiner has objected to Claims 11 and 24 as being dependent on rejected claims. Applicant notes that each of the remaining independent claims have been amended to include the subject matter of the foregoing claims (along with the limitations of any intervening claims).

Thus, all of the independent claims are deemed allowable. Moreover, the remaining dependent claims are further deemed allowable, in view of their dependence on such independent claims.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. NAI1P031/01.182.01).

Respectfully submitted,
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